



Arc Guide to Consumer Support Grant (CSG)

The Consumer Support Grant (CSG) allows individuals with disabilities to purchase items, services and supports needed due to the individual's disability. These services and items can help the individual with some of their everyday living needs (such as personal cares, taking care of the home, socialization, etc.) in a way that gives the individual more choice, control, flexibility and responsibility.

To be eligible for CSG, the individual must meet all of the criteria listed below:

- Be eligible for Medical Assistance
- Eligible for Personal Care Assistance (PCA), Home Health Aide (HHA) or Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services
- Able to direct one's own care and supports or have a family member/legal representative able to do so
- Have a disability that effects their ability to do some things related to self-care, language, learning, mobility, self-direction and independent living. (Some examples of the things related to the disability include dressing, bathing, grooming, communicating needs and desires, getting around from place to place, taking care of one's home, shopping, etc.)
- Need support to live in the community
- Live in a typical home setting

Eligibility for CSG is often determined by a MnCHOICES assessment.* If the MnCHOICES assessment determines that the individual is eligible for PCA, HHA or PDN services, the individual will be given a CSG monthly grant amount.

In general, items and services that can be purchased with CSG funds must

- Be based on the needs of the individual with a disability
- Help meet health, safety or general welfare needs of the individual with a disability
- Make sense as a good way to use governmental funds
- Help the individual develop skills
- Help the person be involved in the community

Some items and services that can be purchased include:

- Paying family members and friends to help. This includes the ability of parents of minors (children under the age of 18) to be paid.
- Providing supervision, socialization and care that is not considered medical care
- Modifications to a home or vehicle
- Home delivered meals
- Respite care for family members so the person providing services can have a break

- Chore services so that the home is clean and safe
- Equipment, devices, gadgets
- Transportation/travel
- Family counseling
- Specialized nutritional products

In general, items and services cannot be purchased with CSG fund if

- Some other private or public dollars are required or are available (Some examples of private or public dollars/funding could be private insurance, education, etc.)
- A person without a disability would buy the same item or service for the same price

The county human services agency will inform the individual when CSG is available and the proposed amount of the grant. The Minnesota Department of Human Services based on the MnCHOICES assessment results determines Grant amounts.

Applying for CSG

- Most counties require an individual interested in obtaining CSG to attend an orientation. Contact the county social services department to find out when and where there is an orientation. During the orientation, the county will provide information on CSG including:
- Creating a person-centered support plan which describes how the grant funds will be used (The county will provide a form to complete the plan.)
- Selecting a Fiscal Support Service** which will assist in payment of services and items
- Documentation of services, supports and items for payment or reimbursement
- Items which can and cannot be purchased
- Plan approval process

Some parts of the person-centered support plan are:

- Description of the individual
- What does the individual want to do
- What outcomes are expected
- What support, service, and/or item do you want to buy? How will it help the individual?

****The Fiscal Support Service is a company that**

- Helps an individual hire and pay for staff including employment related expenses
- Pays bills for items that the plan says can be purchased

You cannot receive CSG if you are receiving waiver services. You cannot receive CSG if you are receiving a Family Support Grant.

If you are receiving Medical Assistance through a Managed Care Program, please call The Arc Minnesota for information on CSG.

For more information, please read:

- Information from the Minnesota Department of Human Services on the Consumer Support Grant
- Minnesota Legislation on the Consumer Support Grant

*See The Arc Guide to MnCHOICES

**The county will give a list of Fiscal Support Services that the individual can use.